

**Approved Meeting Minutes
Education Advisory Committee
January 13, 2014
City Hall**

Attendees

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Cory Sanders, <i>Dist 2</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Charlene Mahoney, <i>Dist 2</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Brian Bertges, <i>Dist 1</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Melissa Day, <i>Dist 3</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Carolyn Bernache, <i>Dist 4</i>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Doris Ellis, <i>Dist 4</i>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Peggy Wilson, <i>UMD</i>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>

Also Present:

Peggy Higgins, Staff Liaison; Faheem Mahmooth, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Ms. Bernache called the first Educational Advisory Committee (EAC) meeting of 2014 to order at 7:30 pm.

Agenda Items

Reading and Approval of December Meeting Minutes

Ms. Bernache suggested adding the explanation that some of the Fulbright Scholars were scheduled to attend other meeting, in order to explain the lower than expected turnout to the Fulbright Reception reported on the December meeting minutes. Mr. Bertges motioned to accept the minutes with the proposed changes. Ms. Mahoney seconded the motion before the committee unanimously approved the minutes of the December meeting.

Old Business

Revised Grant Application for Paint Branch Elementary

Mr. Bertges pointed out that significant grammar and spelling errors still remain in the application. In addition, he was concerned about how MSA prep performances and the Mathamagician could be classified as cultural art performances, and about the lack of detail about the museums and exhibits that the school plans to visit. Ms. Bernache, along with Mr. Bertges, were not comfortable funding substitute teachers in order to allow school staff to take part in learning walks, as they felt that such programs had little direct impact on the students. Ms. Higgins advised the committee to allow the principal discretion on his choice of professional

development programs. Ms. Bernache said that despite the grammar and lack of clarity, the students at the school could benefit from the proposed programs. Ms. Mahoney concurred, indicating that perhaps the grant preparers were looking for ideas to benefit the students instead of merely adhering to their parameters of cultural performances that would necessitate a larger change in language from their original grant application.

Ms. Higgins suggested that if the EAC chooses to do so, they may indicate that the quality of the grant application did not warrant funding the grant at the full amount. She also suggested that the memo to City Council could indicate that the school was asked to resubmit the application, after correcting the grammar errors and including details on the items that the EAC requested for clarity on.

Mr. Sanders motioned to recommend to the City Council to fund Paint Branch Elementary's grant application up to \$6,000.00, instead of the requested \$7,500.00. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bernache. Mr. Bertges, suggesting that the EAC should recommend reducing the funding to only \$5250.00 due to the lack of clarity in the field trips and only funding the cultural art performances, voted against the motion. However, the motion passed 4-1-0.

Ms. Higgins informed the committee that the grant application will probably be discussed at the City Council session on February 4, 2013.

Preschool Fair

The Preschool Fair is currently scheduled for January 25, 2014. Only 4 schools were currently scheduled to participate. Ms. Higgins suggested sending out a letter to those schools who decided not to participate inquiring from them what would help them to be interested in participating at future preschool fairs.

Concerning the sandwich board for the Preschool Fair currently in Ms. Joan Siker's possession, Ms. Higgins said that she could stop by the nursery school where Ms. Siker works to inquire about it.

The event is scheduled to be held from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm, while the Community Center was reserved from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Ms. Bernache will bring balloons and snacks for the event, while Ms. Day will provide the juice boxes and water bottles.

Ms. Higgins's office will send out the fliers to the committee members for them to place throughout the city. In response to Ms. Mahoney's question, Ms. Bernache said to bring food and supplies enough for about 50 attendees.

New Business

Mr. Bertges said that he received an email concerning a meeting to discuss potential improvements to Prince George's County's education and school system. Ms. Higgins and the rest of the EAC were not aware of such a meeting. Mr. Bertges will email Ms. Higgins the information.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm by consensus.

Minutes prepared by Faheem A. Mahmooth